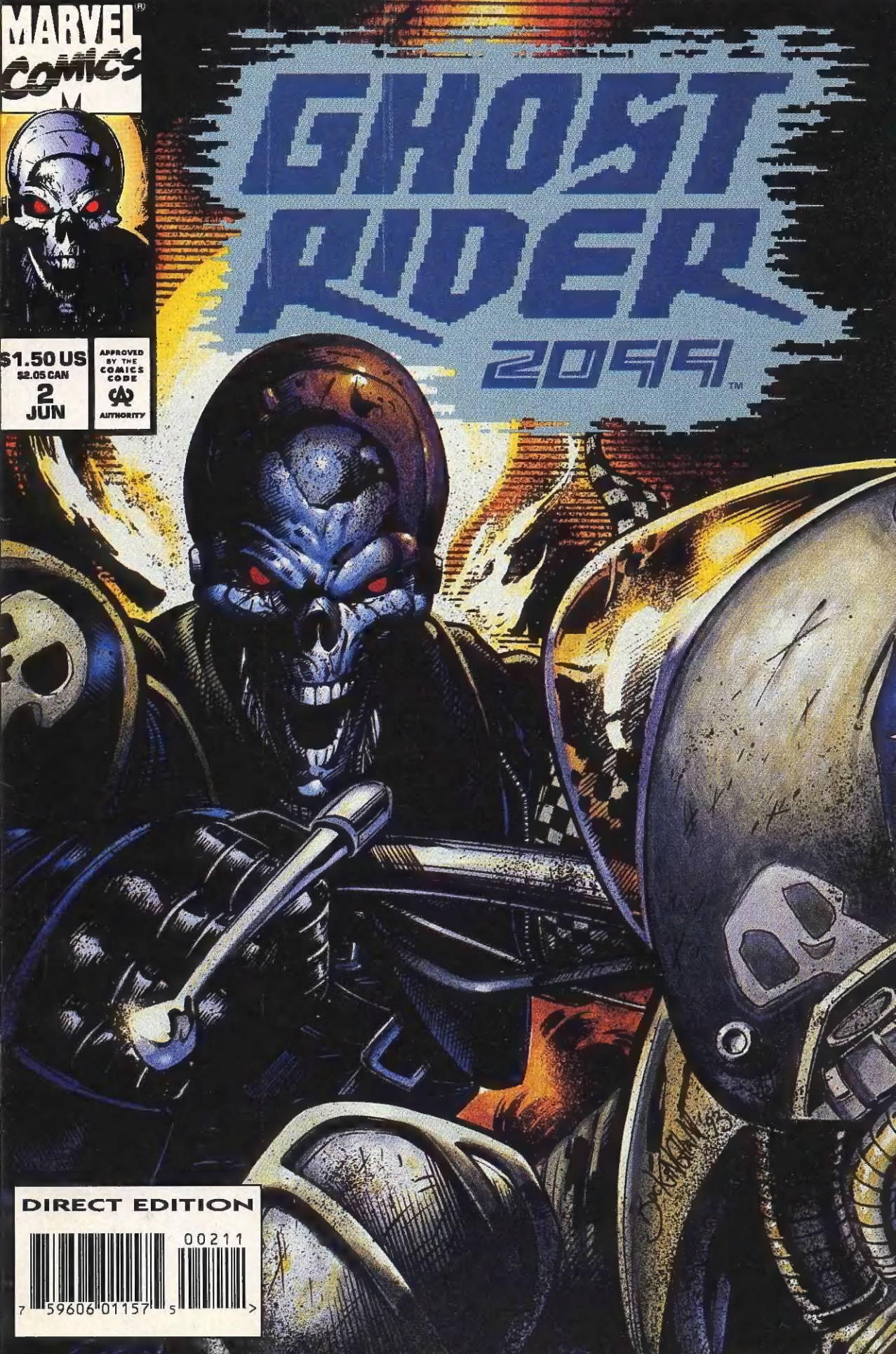
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DETONATION BOULEVARD

LEN KAMINSKI WORDS CHRIS BACHALO BREAK-DOWNS MARK BUCKINGHAM FINISHES

RICHARD STARKINGS W/JOHN GAUSHELL LETTERS CHRISTIE SCHEELE W/HEROIC AGE COLORS EVAN SKOLNICK EDITOR BOBBIE CHASE GROUP EDITOR TOM DeFALCO CHIEF

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Scanned By GOTHAN
For The HaCsA 2002 Halloween Flood

ALL THE WAY --
-- BACK FROM THE DEAD!
-:- HHGAAK -:-
WHO --
-- WHAT THE SHOCK ARE YOU?
WRRSKREEKT
DON'T YOU RECOGNIZE ME?

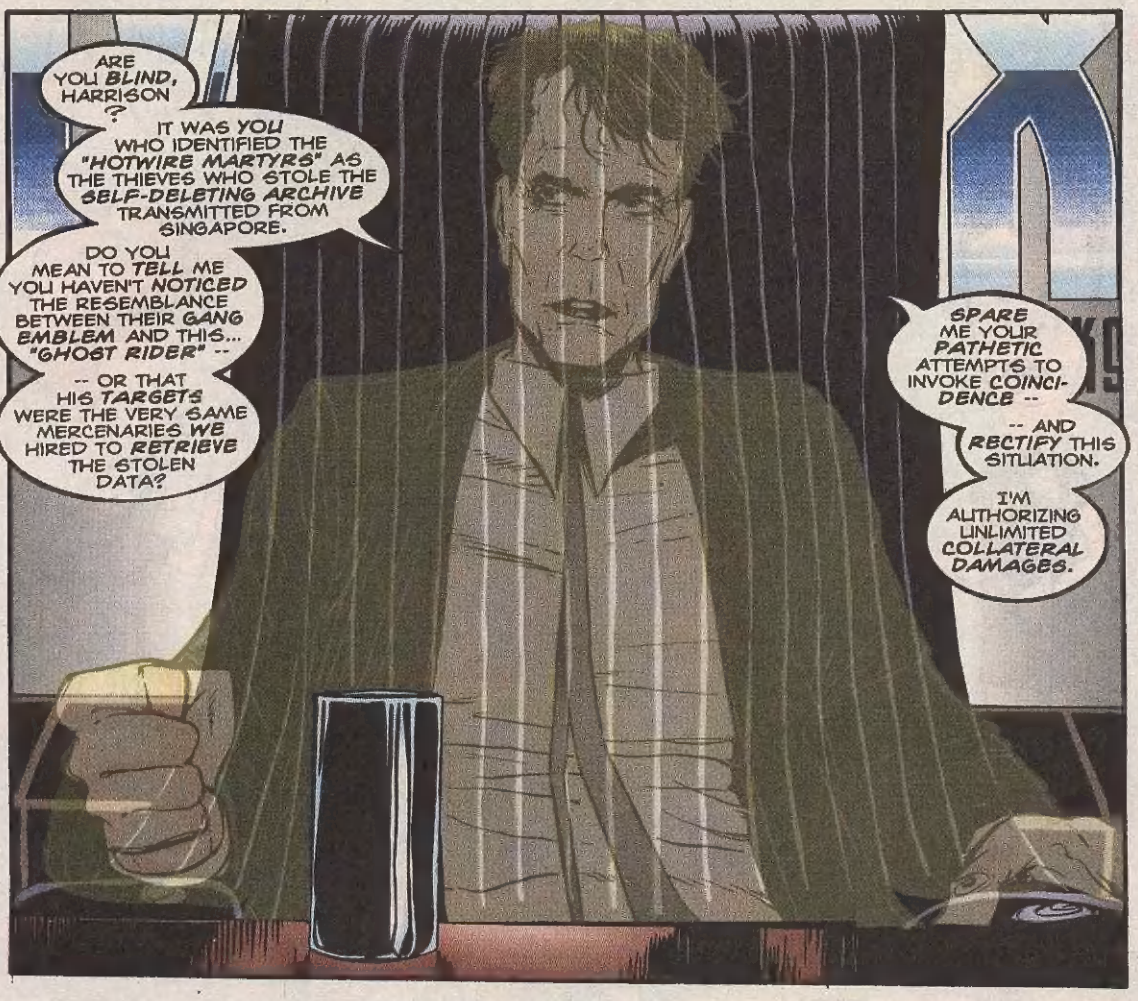
I'LL GIVE YOU A HINT.
"YOU KNOW WHAT I WANT --
-- AND I KNOW I'M GONNA GET IT.
ONLY QUESTION IS, HOW MUCH YOU GONNA HURT IN BETWEEN?"
COCHRANE?
BUT... I SAW YOU DIE...
I
GOT
BETTER!
YOU REALLY EXPECT ME TO STAY DEAD --
-- WHILE RATBITING SCUM LIKE YOU --
OH GOD!
OH GODDDDD
-- AND THE STINKING BIZ SUITS WHO PAID YOU TO KILL ME --
SPLAT
-- ARE STILL SUCKING BREATH?
GET REAL.

TOOK MY BIONICS... GO AHEAD, FINISH ME, YOU SONUVA...
AND PUT YOU OUT OF YOUR MISERY?
NAH.
NOT YET, ANYWAY.
MAYBE LATER.
ALL RIGHT --
-- WHO'S NEXT?
FREEZE!
YOU'RE ALL UNDER ARREST!

RESISTANCE WILL BE MET WITH AUTHORIZED USE OF DEADLY FORCE.
FASCIST PUSBAGS.
URHK
I'M NOT IN THE MOOD TO SCREW WITH YOU RIGHT NOW.
AAAAAAA
SKRAADSH

SKTHRMMMMM
VIOLENCE
CYBERSPACE GORE
KLIM
HALT!
VIOLENCE
RRRAAAWWWLLL
BLAM BLAM BLAM
CALL FOR BACK-UP!
HE'S GETTING AWAY!
HE'S --
-- GONE.
HOLY GLITCH.
PRECISELY WHAT HAPPENED HERE IN THE URBAN WASTELANDS NEAR SOUTH RAMP FOUR TONIGHT REMAINS A MYSTERY.

LIVE 11
INVESTIGATORS ARE STILL PIECING TOGETHER THE WRECKAGE --
-- HUMAN AND OTHERWISE --
-- IN ORDER TO DETERMINE THE FACTS.
MORE PROFOUNDLY DISTURBING THAN EVEN THE SHOCKING BRUTALITY OF THIS CRIME, HOWEVER --
-- IS THE NATURE OF ITS PERPETRATOR.
REVEALED HERE IN EXCLUSIVE FOOTAGE PROVIDED BY CENTRAL SECURITY --
-- IS AN UNEARTHLY CREATURE SEEMINGLY STRAIGHT OUT OF THE TWENTIETH CENTURY'S AGE OF HEROES.
D/MONIX
ACCORDING TO OFFICIAL STATEMENTS, THIS MODERN-DAY "GHOST RIDER" ESCAPED THE SCENE AFTER A HEATED BATTLE WITH CSS OFFICERS --
-- AND EVEN NOW REMAINS AT LARGE.
THIS IS INTOLERABLE.
FIRST, AN EXTRAORDINARILY IMPORTANT HIGH-SECURITY FILE WAS ALLOWED TO FALL INTO THE HANDS OF COMMON DATA PIRATES.
AND NOW, OUR GRIP ON LAW AND ORDER ITSELF IS BREAKING DOWN.
SIR, WITH ALL RESPECT, I FAIL TO SEE THE CONNECTION BETWEEN --

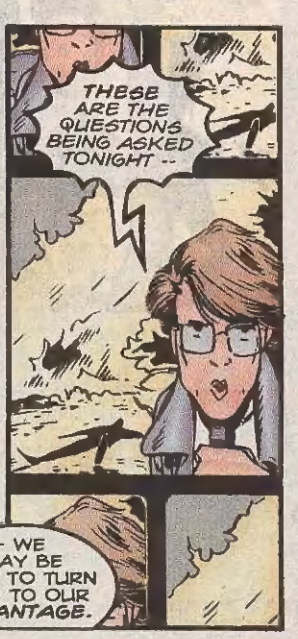

ARE YOU BLIND, HARRISON?
IT WAS YOU WHO IDENTIFIED THE "HOTWIRE MARTYRS" AS THE THIEVES WHO STOLE THE SELF-DELETING ARCHIVE TRANSMITTED FROM SINGAPORE.
DO YOU MEAN TO TELL ME YOU HAVEN'T NOTICED THE RESEMBLANCE BETWEEN THEIR GANG EMBLEM AND THIS... "GHOST RIDER" --
-- OR THAT HIS TARGETS WERE THE VERY SAME MERCENARIES WE HIRED TO RETRIEVE THE STOLEN DATA?
SPARE ME YOUR PATHETIC ATTEMPTS TO INVOKE COINCIDENCE --
-- AND RECTIFY THIS SITUATION.
I'M AUTHORIZING UNLIMITED COLLATERAL DAMAGES.

THAT'S GOING TO STRAIN RELATIONS WITH URMAN AND CSS.
MIGHT I SUGGEST --

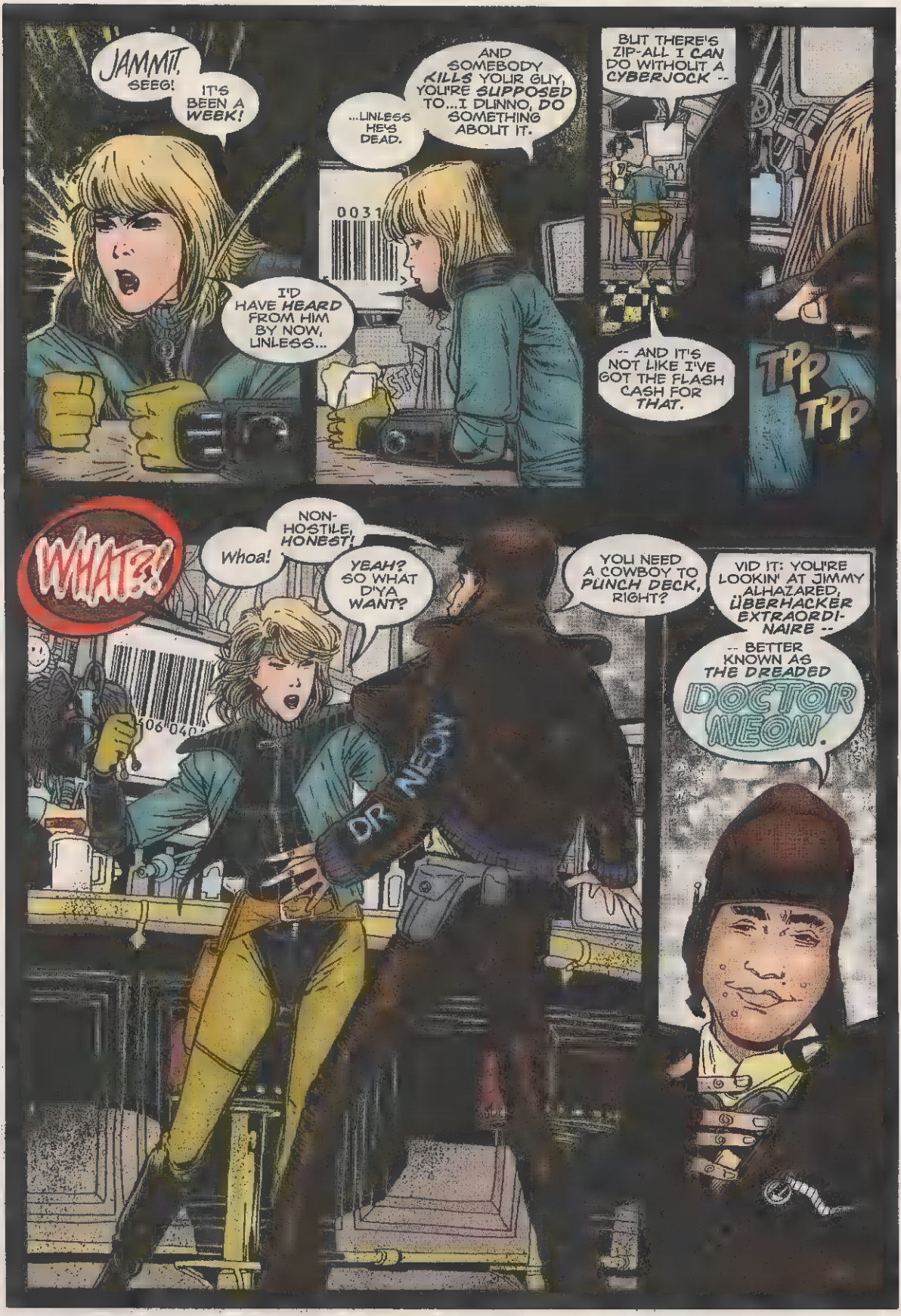
YOU MAY NOT.
URBAN MANAGEMENT AND CENTRAL SECURITY SYSTEMS WILL COOPERATE --
-- OR SUFFER THE CONSEQUENCES.

SHOULD WE IMPOSE MEDIA BLACKOUT ON THIS?

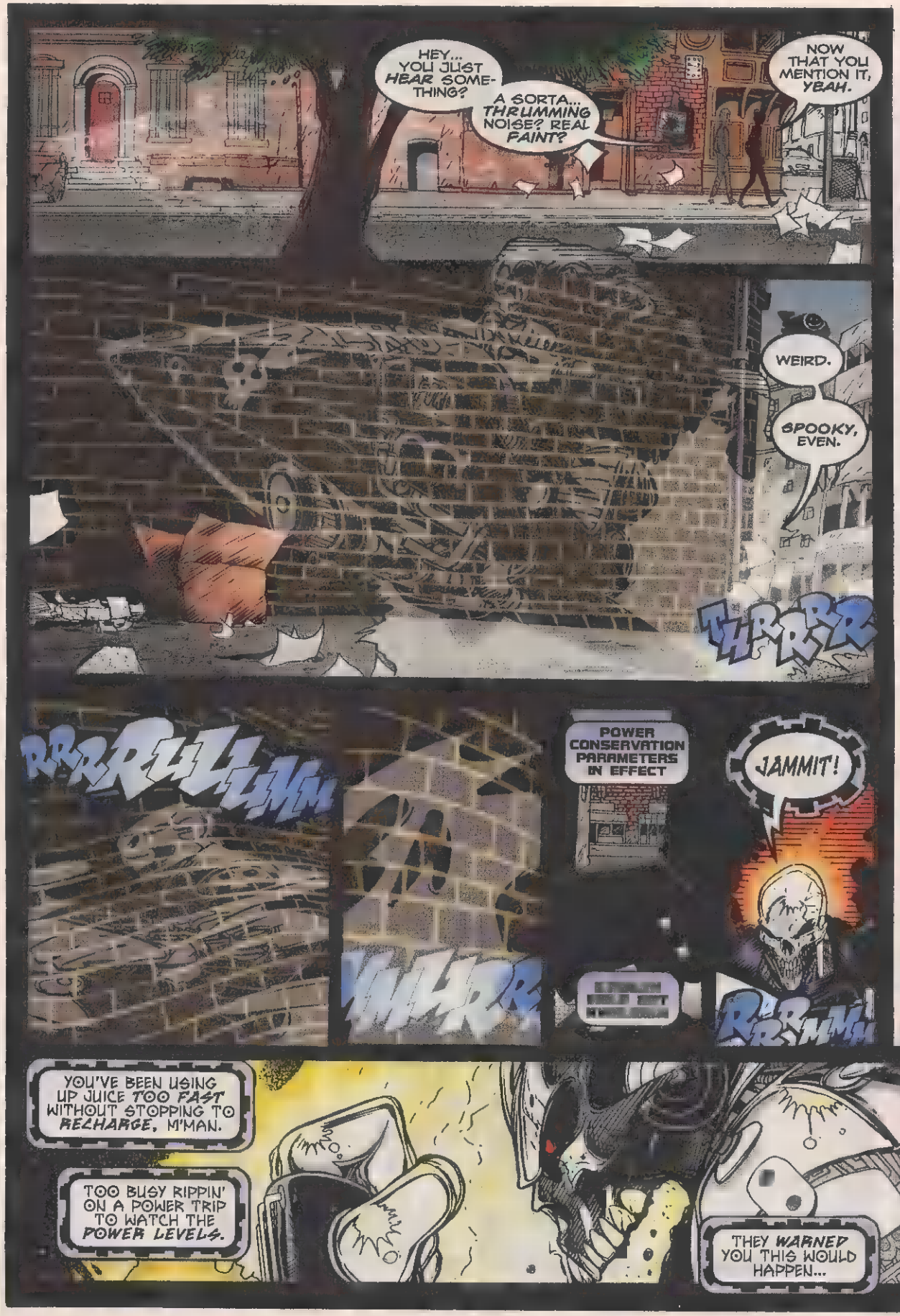
NO.
WITH THE PROPER SPIN CONTROL --
-- WE MAY BE ABLE TO TURN THIS TO OUR ADVANTAGE.


THESE ARE THE QUESTIONS BEING ASKED TONIGHT --

WHO -- OR WHAT -- IS THIS NEW GHOST RIDER?
WHAT DOES HE WANT?
WHAT LINK, IF ANY, DOES HE SHARE WITH HIS HISTORICAL PREDECESSOR?
AND PERHAPS MOST IMPORTANTLY --
LIVE 11
-- WHEN -- AND WHERE -- WILL HE STRIKE AGAIN?
QUESTIONS WHICH, AS OF THIS MOMENT, HAVE NO CLEAR ANSWERS.
YOU BE WANTIN' ANOTHER, KYLIE-GIRL?
THIS IS WILLIS ADAMS, REPORTING LIVE AND DIRECT FROM TRANSVERSE CITY.
59606 04044
00311
MIZ GAGARIN?
Oh, uh, SURE, C-GRAM, SORRY.
JUST VIDDING OUT.
YOU GOT TO QUIT MOONIN' OVER ZED-BOY.
FORGET DAT MON, D'ARLIN' -- HE'S LONG GONE SALVAGE. BEST YOU BE PUTTING 'IM OUTTA YOUR MIND.
00311


JAMMIT. SEEG!
IT'S BEEN A WEEK!
I'D HAVE HEARD FROM HIM BY NOW, UNLESS...
...UNLESS HE'S DEAD.
AND SOMEBODY KILLS YOUR GUY, YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO...I DUNNO, DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT.
BUT THERE'S ZIP-ALL I CAN DO WITHOUT A CYBERJOCK --
-- AND IT'S NOT LIKE I'VE GOT THE FLASH CASH FOR THAT.
TPP TPP
0031
WHAT?!
Whoa!
NON-HOSTILE, HONEST!
YEAH? SO WHAT D'YA WANT?
YOU NEED A COWBOY TO PUNCH DECK, RIGHT?
VID IT: YOU'RE LOOKIN' AT JIMMY ALHAZARED, ÜBERHACKER EXTRAORDINAIRE --
-- BETTER KNOWN AS THE DREADED DOCTOR NEON.
DR NEON
606040

YEAH, SURE. I GOT SOCKS OLDER THAN YOU.
HOW MANY HOURS YOU LOGGED [redacted] ACTIVE-MATRIX?
596
mmmbbll
WHAT?
FIVE.
44
WRECK ME, [redacted] AS GRASS.
YOU AT LEAST GOT YOUR OWN DECK?
YOU BET!
TWENTY GIGS OF RAM, FULL SIM FEED.
BUILT IT MYSELF!
Mmn.
OKAY.
C'MON.
BAR CODE
960
BAR CODE
Hi Neil
LENNY DUD IT
WHERE'RE WE GOING?
YOUR PLACE.
AND DON'T GET ANY IDEAS.
STRICTLY BIZ, GOT IT?

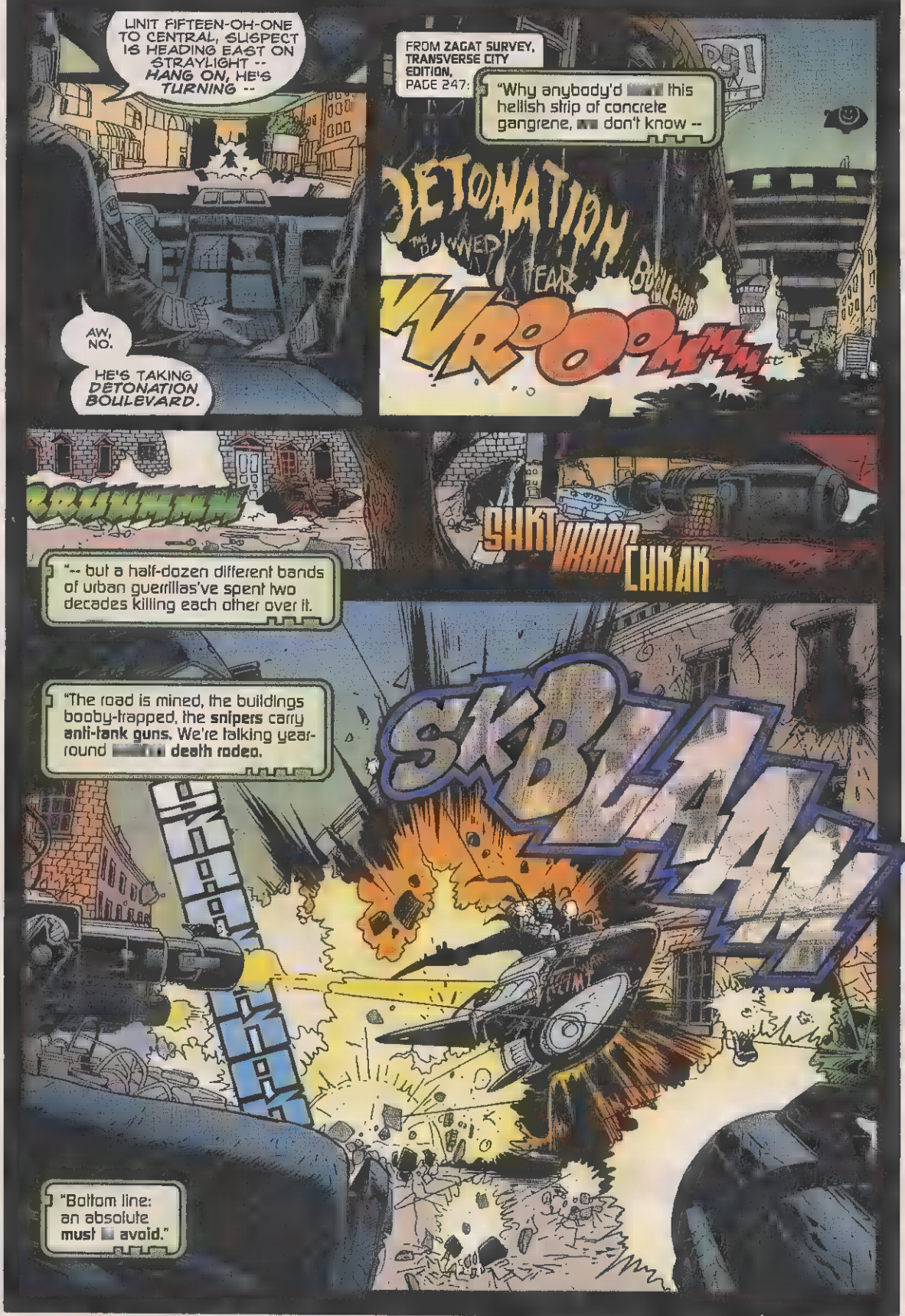

HEY... YOU JUST HEAR SOMETHING?
A SORTA... THRUMMING NOISE? REAL FAINT?
NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT, YEAH.
WEIRD.
SPOOKY, EVEN.
THRRRR
RRRRLLLMM
WHRR
POWER CONSERVATION PARAMETERS IN EFFECT
JAMMIT!
RRRRMM
YOU'VE BEEN USING UP JUICE TOO FAST WITHOUT STOPPING TO RECHARGE, M'MAN.
TOO BUSY RIPPIN' ON A POWER TRIP TO WATCH THE POWER LEVELS.
THEY WARNED YOU THIS WOULD HAPPEN...

YOUR BODY IS A MODIFIED CYBERTEK 101 CHASSIS HOUSING A METATASKING NEUROMIMETIC NETWORK.
YOU GOT DOCUMEN-TATION?
A VARIETY OF USER HELP FILES HAVE BEEN INSTALLED IN MEMORY.
OH, I SEE 'EM NOW.
"USER-PROGRAMMABLE SOLIDOGRAM CAMOUFLAGE SYSTEM?"
LET'S GIVE THAT A TRY.
JAGGED.
AND A STEALTH FIELD?
I CAN DO SOME SERIOUS DAMAGE WITH THAT.
REMEMBER NOW, LADDIE, THE CLOAKING DEVICE REQUIRES QUITE A BIT OF ENERGY.
YE CANNA USE IT FOR LONG PERIODS.
AN' WATCH YOUR BATTERY STATUS -- YE'LL BE NEEDIN' DAILY RECHARGES TO MAINTAIN FULL CAPACITY.
YEAH, YEAH.
IF YOU DINNA RESUPPLY THE TARRILIUM KRELLIDE STORAGE CELLS REGULARLY, YE COULD CRASH THE WHOLE KIT AN' KABOODLE.
I HEARD YOU ALREADY!
SKEETNASSSSH

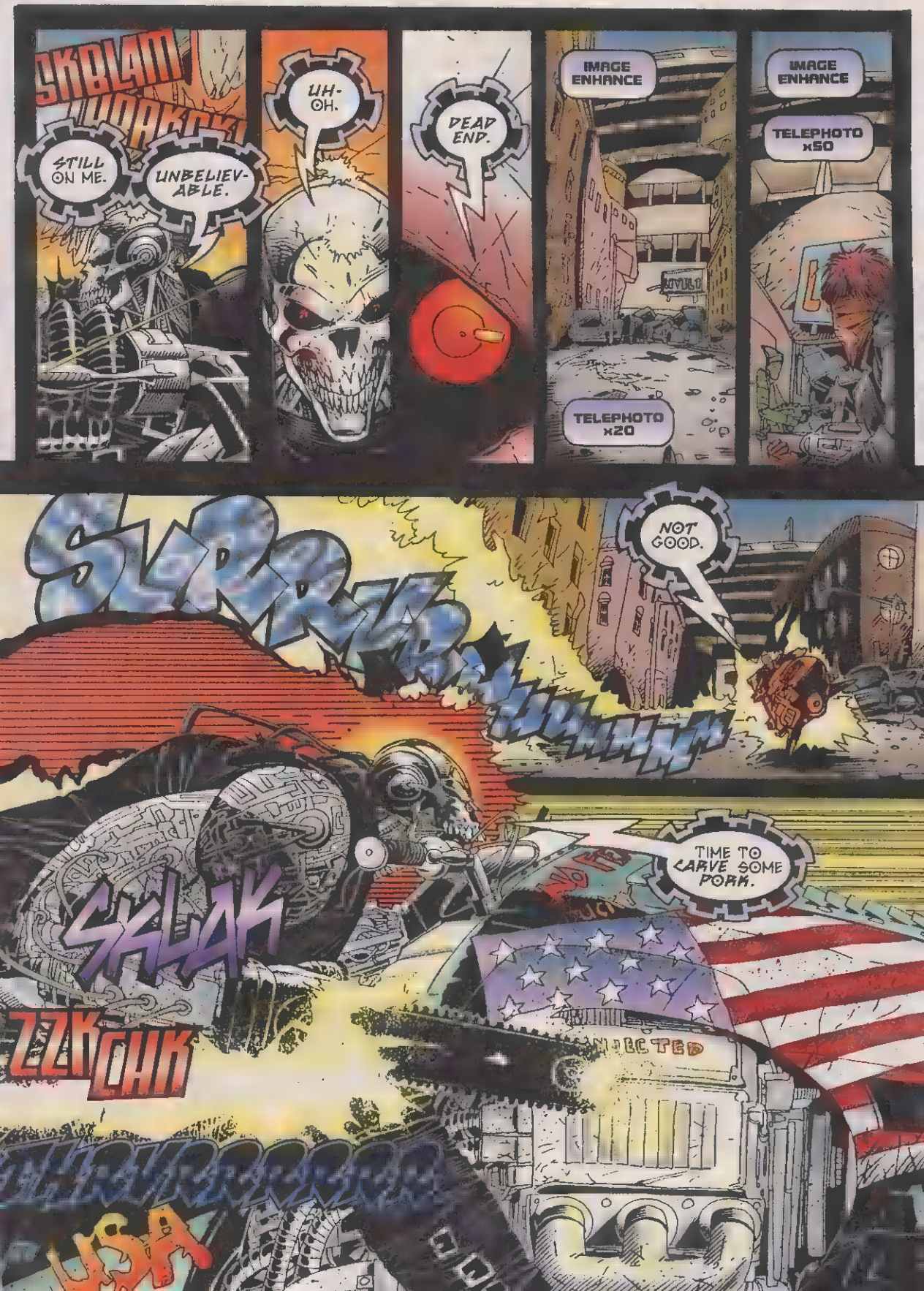
THE VEHICLE IS A CUSTOMIZED FORD VELOCIRAPTOR NINE-HUNDRED-XL WITH A-GRAV PROPULSION, SUPER-CHARGED TURBO-THRUSTERS --
-- AND A GENUINE PSEUDO-LEATHER UPHOLSTERY.
ACES.
JUST NEED TO MAKE ONE LAST ADJUSTMENT TO THE IMAGE PARAMETERS --
-- AND I'M STREET-READY.
OKAY, SO IT'S A STATEMENT.
SAVE IT FOR LATER.
THE LAST THING YOU WANT RIGHT NOW --
-- IS TO GET NOTICED.
VWOOO VWOOO VWOOO
ZERO
HALT!
CRUNCH THE NUMBERS, GENIUS.
VRRRUMM
YOU NEED TO SHAKE THE HEAT AND SCORE SOME VOLTS.
SPELLS ONE PLACE, AND THAT'S --

-- A DISASTER AREA.
TOTALLY SKELTERED!
HOW DO YOU FIND ANYTHING?
HEY, I KNOW WHERE IT ALL IS.
SO WHAT'S THE BUZZ? WE GONNA RAID ALCHEMAX FOR SOME CLASSIFIED [redacted] SEQUENCES?
OR MAYBE CRACK DRYCO AN' READ THE OLD MAN'S PERSONAL DIARIES?
SCOPE THIS.
HO-KAY.
SKLIK
DO ME A FAVOR -- SAVE THIS MESSAGE TO DISK, OKAY?
Hmmmmm.
ONLY REASON TO DO THAT'D BE IF THERE'S SOMETHING ENCRYPTED INTO THE LSB'S OF THE VIDEO FEED.

SKLIKIKCHIK
SKLIKIKCHIK
LEGSEE WHAT WE CAN FIND...
SO WHO'S THE SPUD? BOY-FRIEND?
YEAH.
SORT OF.
AH, I DUNNO.
TRUTH? I WAS THINKING ABOUT DUMPING HIM, BEFORE HE WENT MISSING.
BUT SINCE THEN...
...I CAN'T STOP THINKING ABOUT HIM.
I FEEL HIM EVERYWHERE... LIKE I CAN'T SEE HIM, BUT I KNOW HE'S THERE.
HAUNTING ME. LIKE...A GHOST.
FUNNY...
SOUNDS TO ME LIKE THE DEFINITION --
-- OF INFOR-MATION.
SKITAKCHITKLIT
PLIK


UNIT FIFTEEN-OH-ONE TO CENTRAL, SUSPECT IS HEADING EAST ON STRAYLIGHT -- HANG ON, HE'S TURNING --
AW, NO.
HE'S TAKING DETONATION BOULEVARD.
FROM ZAGAT SURVEY, TRANSVERSE CITY EDITION, PAGE 247:
"Why anybody'd [redacted] this hellish strip of concrete gangrene, [redacted] don't know --
DETONATION BOULEVARD
VROOMMM
BRUHMMM
SHKTVRRRR
CHKAK
"-- but a half-dozen different bands of urban guerrillas've spent two decades killing each other over it.
"The road is mined, the buildings booby-trapped, the snipers carry anti-tank guns. We're talking year-round [redacted] death rodeo.
SKBLAM!
"Bottom line: an absolute must [redacted] avoid."

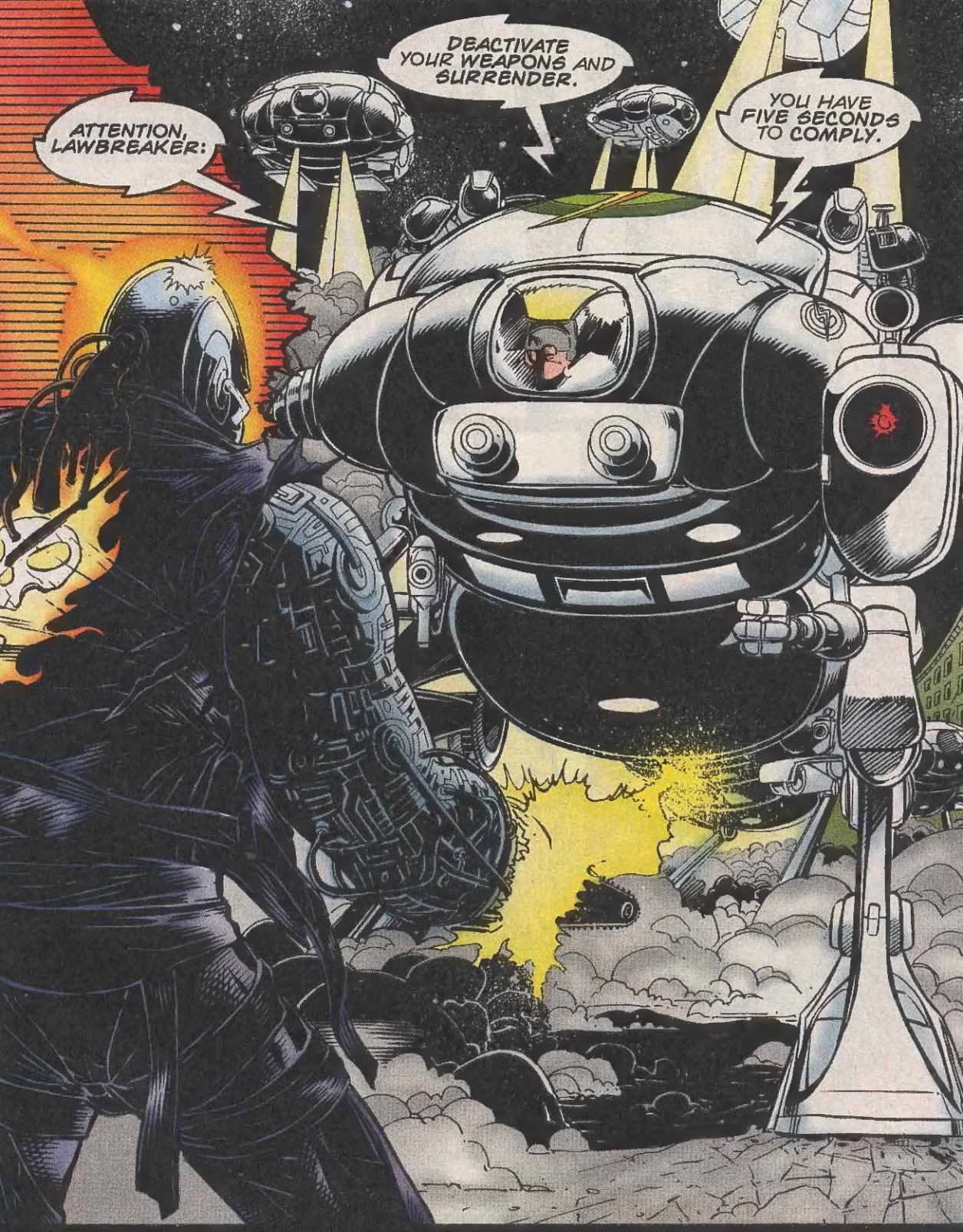
TING
I LOVE THIS TOWN.
THE TRUTH
THANGK
CHAK
NO FEAR
UNJUSTIFIED
PULL OVER.
THIS IS YOUR FINAL WARNING.
AREN'T YOU DEAD YET?!
VWOOOVWOOOVWOOO
SKROOM
THRAK
VRRROOOOOM
WOOOVWOOO
ZSHRAK
ZSHRAK
YAAAGH
UNIT TWELVE-SEVENTEEN TO CENTRAL --
-- WE'RE GONNA NEED BACKUP.


SKBLAM
STILL ON ME.
UNBELIEVABLE.
UH-OH.
DEAD END.
IMAGE ENHANCE
TELEPHOTO x20
IMAGE ENHANCE
TELEPHOTO x50
SLRRK
NOT GOOD.
SKLAK
TIME TO CARVE SOME PORK.
ZZK CHK
INJECTED
USA

RAAA
SKAAM
KTHRUP
VRRRRR
FORD
WHAT'RE YOU, READ ONLY?
YOU DON'T LEARN REAL WELL.

THREE-NINE-ONE-ONE TO CENTRAL, EMERGENCY!
"SERVICE AND JUSTICE?"
WHERE'S MINE?
11
SERVICE AND JUSTICE FOR ALL
SLASH
OFFICER UNDER ATT--
WHERE WERE YOU --
VRRRRRRR
SLASH
--AAHGK
-- WHEN I WAS GETTING MURDERED?!
GHNNNK
SCREW YOUR JUSTICE.
HAKK
KHUKK
I'M MAKING MY OWN.
TWO-ONE-FOUR FOUR TO CENTRAL!
WHERE'S THAT BACKUP?!

AH, ROGER TWO-ONE-FOUR-FOUR, THIS IS ONE-EIGHT-NINE AIRBORNE.
BACKUP IS EN ROUTE.
ETA, THIRTY SECONDS.
GROUND UNITS, THIS IS ATAC* COMMAND; WE ARE ASSUMING SITUATION CONTROL.
*ADVANCED TACTICAL ARMORED COMBAT.
WE'RE GOING TO NEED TRAFFIC ISOLATION IN SECTOR SEVENTEEN.
IT MAY GET UGLY DOWN THERE.
SHOCKIN' TERRIFIC.
SSSKSSSSSFFF


ATTENTION, LAWBREAKER:
DEACTIVATE YOUR WEAPONS AND SURRENDER.
YOU HAVE FIVE SECONDS TO COMPLY.
NEXT
UP AND RUNNING